

K-55

Lawrence House  
355 High Street, Chestertown  
2nd Quarter 19th Century

The Lawrence House is so named for the owner who appears on Martinet's 1860 Map of Chestertown, as well as in a deed to the adjoining house with reference to its boundary.<sup>1</sup> This house, as well as the neighboring Ferguson House, were both initially constructed as modest residences. However, both have had their first floors converted into commercial spaces in the early 20th century.

Originally, the building appears to have been a two-bay, two-story, frame dwelling. In the second quarter of the 19th century, two dormers were installed on the front slope of the roof. These dormers are actually the earliest features to survive on the street facade. The existing asymmetrical roof appears to be a result of an extension to a one-bay-deep building.

Soon after the construction of the main block, the building was lengthened one bay toward the river. Its rear roof slope followed that established by the original block, mentioned above. Behind this one-bay extension, there was a leanto of one story.

In the early 20th century, a long, two-story wing was constructed out the rear using the same type windows which were used on the remodeled facade. They are two-part, two-pane-wide casements which appear on the second story only. There the original fenestration was replaced by a wide bay window with three casements in the first section and a single casement in the second.

On the first floor both section contained entrances and plate glass store windows with paneling above and below. Around the time the first story was converted to commercial use, an enclosed entry/stair was added on the westernmost gable for access to the second story apartments(s). Since the early 20th century, there have been several remodelings which have obliterated any old materials, but the commercial facade has remained.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. K-55

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Lawrence House

**2. Location**

street & number 355 High Street (+ 353) ☐ not for publication

city, town Chestertown ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Neil & Robin Brayton

street & number 120 Speer Road telephone no.:

city, town Chestertown state and zip code MD 21620

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 70

street & number Cross Street folio 881

city, town Chestertown state MD

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title Windshield Survey

date 1968 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town 100 Community Place, Crownsville state MD

## 7. Description

Survey No. K-55

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

355 High Street is one of two commercial structures in the upper part of the block, but when constructed was a residential structure. It is the third building from Mill Street. It is of interest because it was constructed in the early 19th century and was in the 20th century, altered to such an extent that its original facade was nearly lost.

When initially constructed, the building appears to have been a two-bay-wide, two-story frame building. In the second quarter of the 19th century two dormers were installed on the front slope of the asymmetrical roof. Those dormers are the earliest features to survive on the street facade. The asymmetrical roof appears to be a product of an extension to a one-bay deep building, with a catslide roof extending from the original ridge.

Soon after construction of the main block, the building was lengthened one bay toward the river. It was one bay deep, but the rear roof slope followed that established over the extension. Behind the one-bay extension, was a leanto of one story.

In the early 20th century a long two-story wing was constructed out the rear using the same type windows which were used on the remodeled facade. They are two-part, two-pane-wide casements, which appear on the second story only. There, the original fenestration was replaced by a wide bay window with three casements in the first section and a single casement in the second.

On the first floor both sections contained entrances and plate glass store windows with paneling above and below. Around the time the first story was converted to commercial use, an enclosed entry/stair was added on the westernmost gable for access to the second story apartment(s). Since the early 20th century, there have been several remodelings which have obliterated any old materials, but the commercial facade has remained.

The building is covered with asbestos.

## 8. Significance

Survey No.

K-55

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates****Builder/Architect**check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

355 High Street is of interest in a survey of pre-Civil War architecture because it was a modest vernacular structure which was converted into commercial/residential use in the 20th century. By itself it has little architectural qualities worth mentioning, but its form and scale contribute to the character of the upper end of the 300 block High Street.

The building was constructed on a part of lot 84 and is referred to in a deed for the adjoining lot abutting the "lot now held and occupied by John Lawrence." 1/ It is also identified on the Martinet Map of 1860 as in the possession of the "heirs of J. E. Lawrence." A chain of title has not been carried out on this property, but during the past forty years, it has been in possession of Drs. Dana and Brayton, two Chestertown dentists. The latter had his office therein for a short period of time until moving to the "outskirts" of town. It is currently a doctor's office.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-55

Kent County Land Records, The Courthouse  
1. JFG 4, fol. 76

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Bourne

organization Historical Society of Kent County

date March 1966

street &amp; number P. O. Box 665

telephone 410-778-3499

city or town Chestertown

state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by  
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated  
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and  
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of  
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

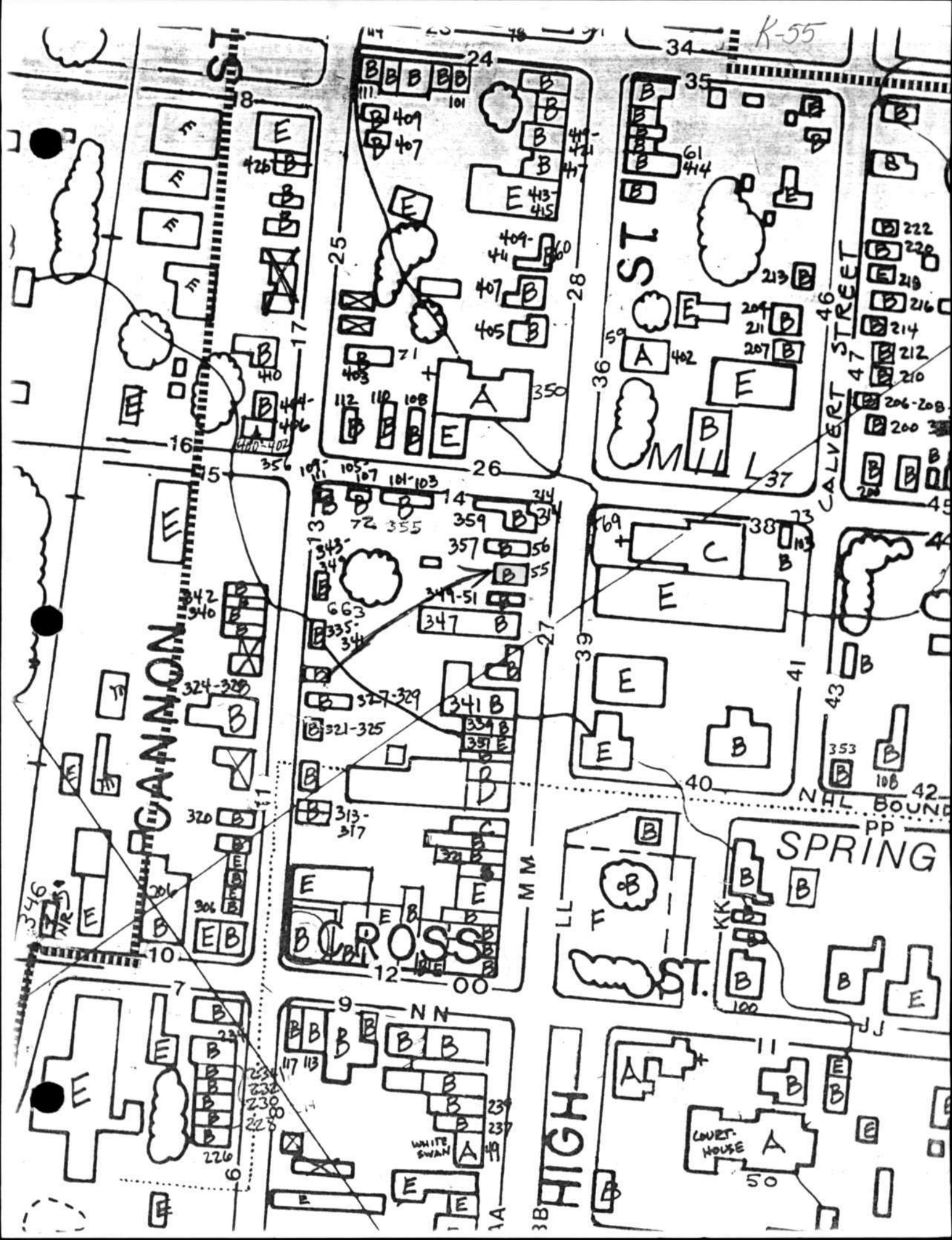
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

1500551511

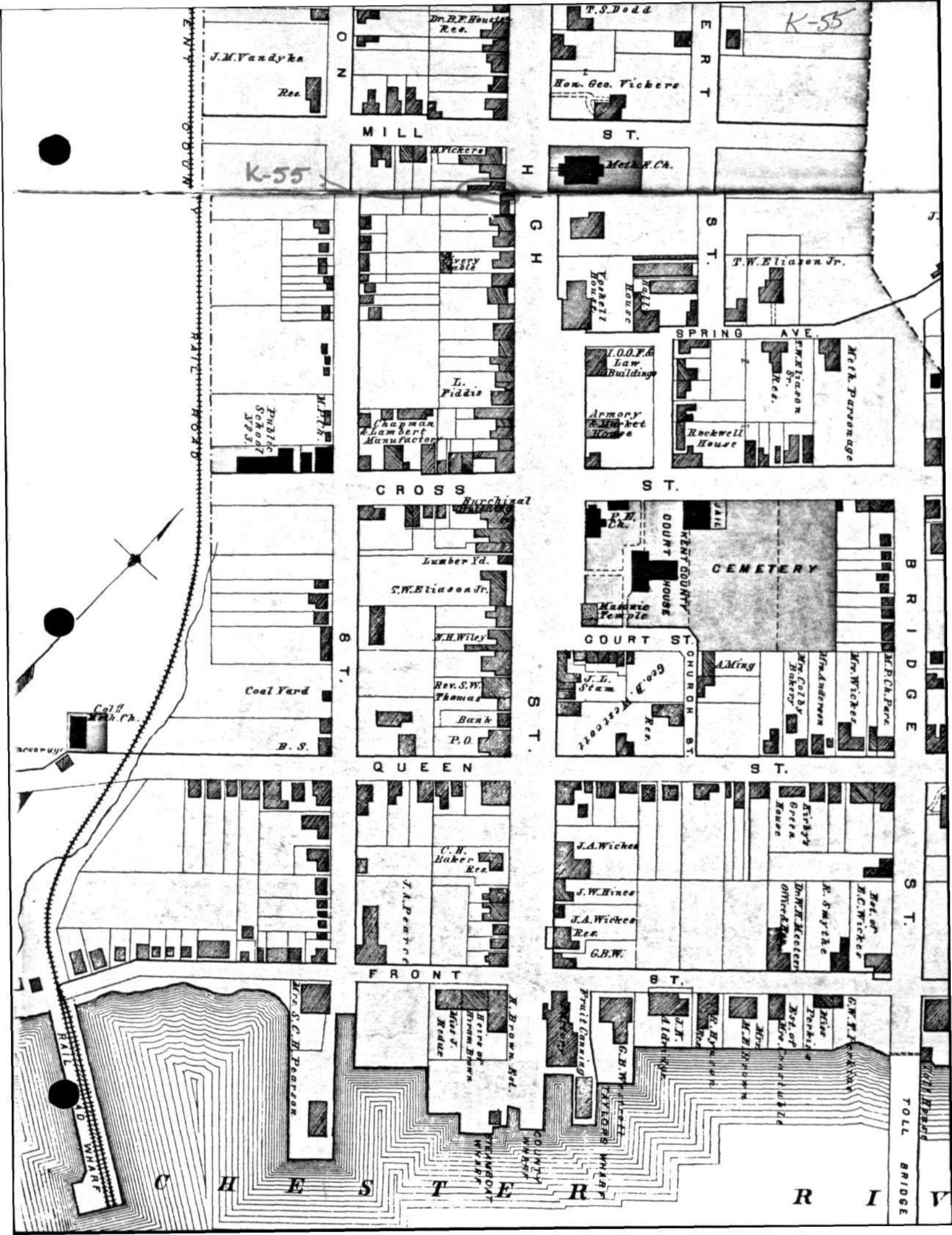
<p>1. STATE <b>Maryland</b> COUNTY <b>Kent</b> TOWN <b>Chestertown</b> VICINITY STREET NO. <b>355 High Street</b></p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER <b>G. Howard Dana</b> PRESENT USE <b>paint store, office, apt.</b> WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>frame</b> NO. OF STORIES <b>2½</b></p>	<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <b>K-55</b></p> <p>2. NAME</p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD <b>19th Century</b> STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC</p> <p>Tucker's Paint Store, on High Street, is a two-and-a-half-story frame building covered with asbestos siding. The main part of the building has a large plate glass window and a door. The second floor has a large bay window hanging over the street. There are two dormers on the "A" roof. To the east end there is a two-story section following the same lines as the main part. It has a door and window on the first floor and a double window on the second floor. On the west end of the building is a covered stair to the apartment above.</p> <p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered    Interior    Exterior    <b>OK</b></p>	
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> <p>3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>	<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> <p><b>1 B &amp; W</b></p> <p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <b>Michael O. Bourne</b> <b>Maryland Historical Trust</b> <b>P. O. Box 1704</b> <b>Annapolis, Md. 21404</b> DATE OF RECORD <b>Feb. 9, 1968</b></p>



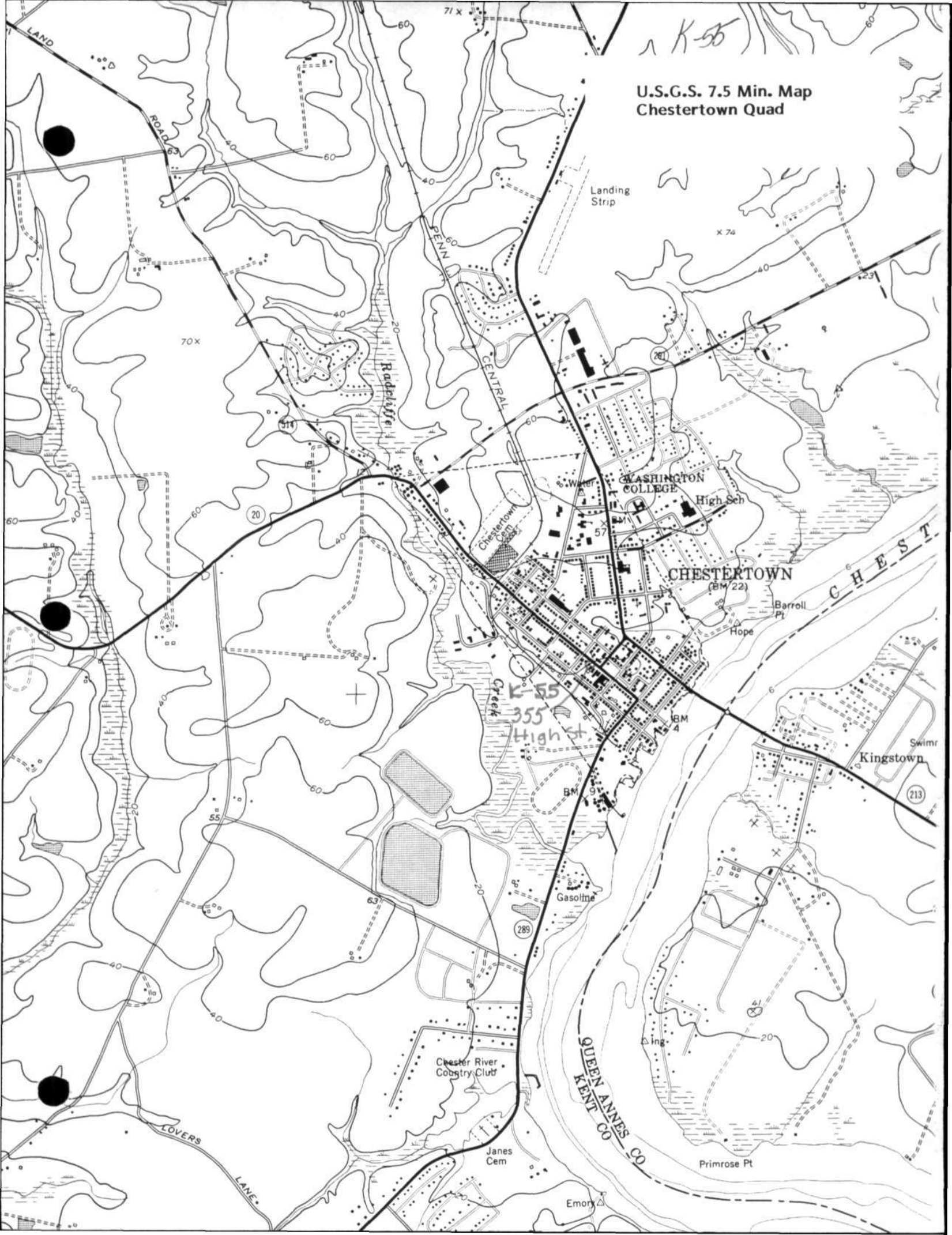








U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map  
Chestertown Quad



K-55  
Lawrence House  
355 High Street  
Chestertown  
Chestertown Quad.  
Kent County





Lawrence House - K-55  
355 High Street  
Chestertown

From NE

Michael Bourn

March 1996